

# DREYFUS, NOT GENERAL MERCIER, EXPLODES THE BOMBHELL.

(Special Cable Dispatches to the New York Journal and Advertiser.)

Mercier Hissed and Hooted as He Leaves the Stand Crestfallen and on the Defensive.

His Promised Sensation Merely a Justification of His Course, on the Ground That the Country Was in 1894 on the Verge of War with Germany.

By Harry J. W. Dam.

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RENNES, AUG. 12.—Dreyfus has risen to the theatrical demand of his hysterical nation. He has defied Mercier to his face, electrified the crowded court, won a share of the applause which the nation will echo. And Mercier, limp, cowed, has sneaked out of court in a hot blast of jeers, of hisses and shouts.

It is half-past six in the morning. The Lycee is a large, square lecture hall, with square proscenium opening to the stage. Across the stage is a long table draped in dark blue cloth, behind which sit seven officers in black uniform coats profusely ornamented with red cloth and gold braid. Five of these officers look common, wooden, like farmers' sons risen from the ranks. Their badly fitting white kid gloves create an atmosphere of distinction which the wearers distinctly lack. Facing La Haute Voies, of Paris, bureaucracy and journalism, they do not seem to be in the picture, and are ill at ease.

"Faites entrer le prisonnier!" cries Jonaus. Dreyfus enters by a door on the right, in bright black and gold uniform coat, red trousers and red cap. He is buoyant in step, his lips firmly compressed, his face full of determination. He mounts three steps to the platform which has been built in front of the stage and stands rigid, with his right hand to his cap, saluting Jonaus.

Jonaus hesitates, then returns the salute. "Ah! Ah! Ah!" breaks out all over the packed, excited audience. "Jonaus has saluted!" "Jonaus did not return the salute!" "Last Monday the secret dossier convinced him. He knows Dreyfus is innocent." Etcetera! Etcetera!

It is wonderful in how many different ways the French language can say the same thing.

## Jonaus Has Learned a Lesson.

Jonaus is certainly much more genial and much less brutal than last Monday. At times his manner is almost fatherly. The newspapers have given him some very bitter medicine and its tonic effect is clear. The trial is resumed. The curtain rises on another sensational act in the long drama, but the bust of France on the west wall still keeps her eyes averted from the white figure of Christ on the east. France and the spirit of the Christian religion are not on speaking terms. Dreyfus is an innocent man, and everybody knows it, but twenty out of twenty-six leading papers in Paris this morning call him a perjured traitor, and will probably continue whether he be acquitted or not.

Jonaus offers Dreyfus a copy of a paper taken from the lining of his coat at Devil's Island.

"Do you know this paper?" he says. "Oui, mon colonel!" The prisoner's voice is deep, clear, musical. If a voice may be called intelligent, Dreyfus has it. In dignity, force, polish, and mental acuteness no man on the platform or stage is the equal of the prisoner. So far Dreyfus is an abler man than people know.

The first witness is Delaroché Vernet, secretary of the French Embassy in Berlin. Delaroché Vernet, in a black frock coat and curled moustache, is a dapper young gentleman. He appears very plain in features, with pale, blue eyes, and a straight nose. In Paris this morning, when Paleologue's head and large, carefully moulded nose and mouth transform Delaroché Vernet into an Adonis by contrast.

## That Panizzardi Dispatch.

The two are called with reference to the Panizzardi dispatch. Maitre Demange crosses questions. Maitre Demange is a very stout man, in a long black gown, black octagonal cap, with large English face. He wears strips of weeping, sandy-gray whiskers straight down from his ears, and looks like a butler or bishop—the two most dignified things in England.

Maitre Labori also asks a question or two. He, also in gown and cap, is young, tall, square shouldered, with light brown pointed beard and moustache. He looks like a brawny Glasgow barrister. The result is that both witnesses agree with the claim of the defence that the Panizzardi dispatch contains nothing whatever reflecting on Dreyfus.

The witness steps down, the audience buzzes and scores the first point in favor of Dreyfus. There is a momentary pause, a stir on the left, and now a great man comes. It is Casimir-Perier. The ex-President is a man of fifty-two, quite tall, in black frock coat and light gray trousers. His hair is thick, his eyebrows and sweeping moustache are all black. His skin is very dull, as if his liver was wrong, and there are brown shadows about his eyes. As he mounts the platform, raises his right hand with a majestic sweep high over his head to take the oath and then begins to speak, you wonder why he makes you think of the ringmaster in a circus in the good old days when there was only one ring. You finally see that it is his swag, his self-consciousness, his black moustache and his immediately parted hair, nicely oiled and puffed all around with a comb.

## Casimir-Perier's Speech:

It is quickly evident that Perier is playing to the gallery. He has gone over to the Dreyfus side. His back is to the audience; he is sitting, like all the witnesses, in a chair in front of the facing Jonaus. But he pronounces in loud, measured tones his long speech, lasting more than half an hour. It seems to be the custom in the curious court that every witness called shall speak as long as he wishes without the slightest interruption. It is perhaps a courteous concession to national garrulity. He begins by saying:

"You have asked me to tell the whole truth. I will tell it without reticence and without reserve. People have persisted in saying and believing that I alone know facts which can throw light on this matter, but this is quite untrue."

He recalls various incidents which are familiar leading to the interview between him and Count Munster; he reads the Emperor's dispatch through Munster to him as President:

"His Majesty the Emperor, having confided in the Government of this French republic, hopes that if it is proved that Germany is not concerned in the affair, the Government of the republic will not hesitate so to declare."

He says in effect there was never any fear of war; he finishes in louder tones with carefully prepared peroration, bringing down his fist with a loud bang upon the table. He says:

"All that has been said and done by the Ministers in this matter was said and done outside of me. I could not have it said as chief of the army and head of the nation that I had any relations whatever with a captain accused of treason."

"But I solemnly affirm before this tribunal of soldiers that my resignation had nothing whatever to do with any diplomatic incident regarding Germany."

## Audience Goes Wild.

A storm of applause breaks out from the excited audience. He has hurt Mercier, helped Dreyfus, and now makes a point for himself:

"I have read certain letters signed 'Dreyfus' which appeared to injure the dignity of the French President. I cannot leave this platform until that fact has been explained."

"Never! Never!" says Dreyfus, sharply. "I never wished to do that."

Perier bows in a large way, descends from the platform and takes a chair on the floor. His evidence has been wholly in Dreyfus's favor. The audience scores two for the prisoner.

Now comes Mercier. The audience is strained, breathless. Probably never in history did a man mount the witness-stand whose words were so anxiously awaited by all Europe. He has not said a dozen words before a hundred white envelopes rise like a flock of birds above the heads of the packed rows of journalists, waved to and fro to call cashiers who pass them to telegraph messengers outside. Mercier's words are going all over the world.

Moreover, for a week past the conviction has been widespread that Mercier would not appear, but commit suicide. The house of greatest interest in Rennes has been his, at 27 Faubourg Artois, whence news of a tragedy has been hourly expected. But the moment he mounts the platform it clearly appears he is not the kind of man who dies before his time.

He is a small man, and though straight in figure, is seventy years old. His face is thin and emaciated. His upper eyelids hang very low, making his eyes heavily two straight lines. He has a peculiar, long, sharp nose, almost rivaling Cyrano's. His whole face and expression are fox-like and crafty to a degree.

## Deferral to Mercier.

He begins his long, endless speech in a low, wheedling, softly modulated voice. He talks to the officers as if they were his children and he loved them, and they fix their eyes on him with a most serious, deferential expression. Mercier has been a great man in France. Half the nation believe him absolutely sincere.

Mercier talks tirelessly on in the same rapid, wheedling tone for four long hours; but his bombshell does not burst. The promised coup de theatre does not come. It is all a weary, endless defence of himself, an argument of the whole case over again, without one word of proof against Dreyfus. The audience is at first stupefied at the line he takes. The roaring lion has become an apologetic lamb. He rehearses the whole affair from his own point of view, but makes one or two sensational points. The first is when he says Perier has not told the whole story of the diplomatic incident; that he, Mercier, was so certain that Germany was about to declare war that he kept Boloisoff and hundreds of officers nearly all night at the War Office, ready to concentrate the whole French army at strategic points.

Perier wiggles in his seat and waves his hand in objection. The audience receives this with murmurs of incredulity.

Mercier says matters were so urgent and dangerous that he dared not openly publish the documents he held, but sent them privately to the court-martial for its inspection.

This statement is received with loud, contemptuous murmurs. It is, of course, his



This Is General Mercier.

The witness from whom much was expected and little came; the Minister of War when Dreyfus was convicted in 1894; the Cabinet Officer who withheld information from the President of France and sent the secret dossier direct to the judges of the court-martial.

excuse for furnishing the judges with the secret dossier unknown to the accused, and his excuse is too weak. Casimir-Perier has cut this ground from under him, and his excuse has failed. He rallies, however, with a most sensational statement: "I know that General Jamont has said that thirty-five million francs were sent from Germany to assist the cause of Dreyfus."

## Like a Boulevard Canard.

This is unquestionably sensational, but it is like a boulevard canard, so feeble in its form of hearsay gossip instead of business-like evidence that it only produces "Oh! Oh! Oh!" of contempt and murmurs of derision.

Mercier's interminable discourse is simply a long argument, interrupted by the reading of many letters. He concludes with the impressively stated conviction that the Court of Cassation was wrong, that Esterhazy could not be guilty.

And now the bombshell bursts. For four hours Dreyfus has been sitting within ten feet of the man whose action alone condemned him to degradation and years of agony. For hours his face has constantly flushed and paled by turns at Mercier's words, but he has sat perfectly still, his white gloved hands crossed calmly in his lap. But Mercier's final, hypocritical words are too much for endurance. Mercier says to the judges:

"If I had seen in all the proceedings of the Court of Cassation the least proof of innocence, I would say, 'Captain Dreyfus, you are innocent!'"

As he says this last, he turns his face for the first time to Dreyfus. Dreyfus, bending forward, wild with rage, cries out: "You ought to say so!"

"No," says Mercier, "I will not. I have done my duty!" Dreyfus loses his self-control. He springs to his feet, his fists clenched, his eyes blazing.

"It is your duty to say it!" he cries. His voice rings through the hall like a bell. It thrills every hearer with the intensity of his indignation. A gendarme beside him jumps forward to prevent an attack.

## Wild Excitement.

The whole audience springs to its feet. Journalists climb on benches. Jonaus waves white hands wildly. Gendarmes call for order and threaten. The whole scene is one of wild excitement, while on the stage the two men face each other in the most dramatic tableau the case has yet furnished.

"In spite of a country deceived, in spite of the millions that have been spent, I will never say it!" cries Mercier loudly.

Then the hoots begin. Casimir-Perier rises, waves his arms, demands a hearing. Jonaus adjourns the session and Mercier leaves the hall.

When he reaches the avenue, however, the note changes. Thousands of sturdy throats cry: "Vive Mercier! Vive l'Armée! Vive la France!"

As we go out newsboys are crying: "Derouille arrested!" The censor has taken proceedings against the vitriolic Paris press. It is an extraordinary court.

The Dreyfusard Gallifrey may prove to be his savior after all.

## DREYFUS GIVES MERCIER THE LIE.

Former President Casimir-Perier Demands to Be Confronted with His Minister of War.

Rennes, France, Aug. 12.—Casimir-Perier, who resigned the Presidency of France rather than be a party to what he regarded as a foul conspiracy against an innocent man, was the chief witness at the second public session of the second court-martial of Captain Alfred Dreyfus this morning.

General Mercier, who was Minister of War at the time of Dreyfus's arrest, testified for nearly four hours, at the close of which Dreyfus denounced him as a liar and Casimir-Perier dramatically demanded that he be confronted with his former Minister, in order to deny some of his assertions.

The court adjourned until 6:30 a. m. on Monday, at which time Casimir-Perier and Mercier will be confronted.

The session today opened at 6:30 a. m. There was but a small gathering of persons outside the Lycee. The crowd seemed apathetic, and there was no demonstration, neither was there the slightest attempt on the part of any one to utter a word or cry, either in favor of the prisoner or against him.

The session was filled at 6:20, when M. Greffier-Coups, the advocate of the court, entered. Dreyfus crossed the Avenue de la Gare from his prison and entered the Lycee at 5:40. The stringent police precautions observed during the week were again taken.

## Dreyfus's Own Boredereau.

The President of the Court, Colonel Jonaus, first produced a document found in a pocket of the prisoner's waistcoat when he entered the prison on January 19, 1895. It was a copy of the boredereau. Colonel Jonaus addressed Dreyfus as follows:

"The boredereau of the Isle de Re, in the course of duty, searched the clothes you brought in an inside pocket of your waistcoat."

The president here handed Dreyfus a paper and said:

"Do you recognize it as having belonged to you?"

Dreyfus—Yes, my Colonel.

Jonaus—Whose was it?

Dreyfus—Mine.

Jonaus—Will you tell me how and under what circumstances this document came into your possession?

Dreyfus—It is a document I used during

my trial. In order to discuss the value of the boredereau I wished to keep it.

Jonaus—The Military Code gives you the right to have a copy of the documents in your case. This document, therefore, was legitimately in your possession. Why do you wish to keep it?

## Wanted a Souvenir.

Dreyfus—As a souvenir of the text of the boredereau.

Jonaus—That was not proper, and, therefore, it was taken from you. I merely wished to elucidate this point. That will do.

M. Greffier-Coups read the physician's account of the transfer of Dreyfus to the prison on the Isle de Re. Dreyfus, to his surprise, was always cool, save for one attack of despair of ten minutes' duration. Dreyfus listened to this account with a dispassionate calm.

The first witness called was M. Delaroché Vernet, secretary of the French Embassy at Berlin. He spoke with hesitation and in a broken and almost inaudible voice. The witness testified that there had never been more than one version of the Panizzardi dispatch.

Maitre Labori, of counsel for Dreyfus, tried in vain to obtain from the witness an admission that the first version had been found to be wrong and that it had been subsequently corrected. M. Paleologue was summoned to the witness stand and he confirmed Delaroché Vernet's testimony.

## Perier to the Rescue.

M. Casimir-Perier was the next witness. He spoke slowly, in a most determined fashion, and with much feeling, pausing sometimes to think, as if he were making a set speech. He swore that he would hold nothing back.

M. Casimir-Perier testified that General Mercier, his Minister of War, told him before Dreyfus was arrested that Dreyfus was suspected of dealings with a foreign embassy. The Minister, the witness said, showed him documents, including the "canaille de D." letter. Von Munster, the Ambassador, said these documents were communicated to Dreyfus's judges, but did not know that they were made known to the judges exclusively.

## Germany's Disclaimer.

M. Casimir-Perier recited an interview which he had with the German Ambassador. That diplomat, he said, when told by the President that the boredereau was found at the German Embassy, declared that the members of the embassy were irresponsible. The documents, the Ambassador said, were sent to them undemand.

The witness agreed to this assertion, so he testified, saying that other embassies were concerned in the case. Von Munster, the Ambassador, said the witness declared a few days afterward that he regarded the incident as closed.

M. Casimir-Perier added that neither he nor the Cabinet saw the dossier till a fortnight after the condemnation of Dreyfus.

the witness solemnly declared that he and Maitre Demange had never discussed the case, and that he had never been acquainted with a member of Dreyfus's family.

## "For France's Honor."

"For the honor of the magistracy and the honor of France," the ex-President added, "I feel compelled to speak the truth in defence of an innocent man."

This declaration M. Casimir-Perier uttered in a vibrant voice, rising till it broke with emotion.

There was an outburst of applause in the courtroom. The President threatened to silence the court if the demonstration was repeated.

M. Casimir-Perier proceeded with his testimony, occasionally referring to a paper which he held to refresh his memory as to a date, but speaking without hesitation. He said that one motive for his resignation of the Presidency was the ignorance in which he had been kept regarding the Dreyfus affair.

He reiterated that he had sworn to the honor of the magistracy and the honor of France.

M. Casimir-Perier concluded this part of his statement by saying excitedly: "For the honor of the Chief Magistracy, which I occupied for the honor of the republic, I will not allow it to be said that I had exchanged a word with a captain in the French Army accused of treason."

This statement caused applause in court, which Colonel Jonaus speedily suppressed. "I speak myself at your disposal," said the ex-President, addressing the Court. "I will answer any questions. My sole desire is to assist in a search for the truth."

At this there was another outburst of applause, which was quickly suppressed. "I speak myself at your disposal," said the ex-President, addressing the Court. "I will answer any questions. My sole desire is to assist in a search for the truth."

One of the jurists asked a question referring to General Mercier's reading to the witness a copy of the Pigaro containing the "canaille de D." letter.

Renard, inquiring why, when he heard Dreyfus's avowal of his guilt from Mercier, he had not made an investigation.

## Dreyfus Never Confessed.

M. Demange testified that Dreyfus had never referred in his letters to communications from himself (Dreyfus) and M. Casimir-Perier.

M. Demange was speaking, explaining that his only relations with M. Casimir-Perier consisted of his sending M. Waldeck-Rousseau to him to ask for a public trial for Dreyfus, the ex-President turned in his direction and thus for the first time faced Dreyfus, who looked up at him with a grateful smile.

An opportunity was given the prisoner to testify on this point, and he declared that he can with a gesture which gave solemn emphasis to his words, but he did not write the letter to which Casimir-Perier referred.

M. Casimir-Perier repeated his deposition before the Court of Cassation and reaffirmed that Captain Lebrun Renard, in his conversation at the Lycee, did not make any reference to Dreyfus's alleged avowals of guilt, indicating the ex-President's disbelief that anything Dreyfus said was in the nature of a confession. No dossier, he said, reached the Government. Dreyfus's condemnation was made by the President's evidence was generally favorable to Dreyfus.

## Casimir-Perier's Resignation.

"I affirm," said the former President, "before this tribunal of soldiers that my resignation was not connected with the diplomatic incident concerning Germany. It pains me not to be able to second the Court in the work of justice confided to it, for from this place must emerge at last for the sake of the country reconciliation and peace."

He spoke with a gesture which gave truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. As Chief of State or when a citizen he has always in my respect for France regarded her as free to make a decision as she herself revered."

Regarding an alleged letter which Dreyfus was said to have written to M. Casimir-Perier.

## Dewey State Committee.

The State Legislative Committee, Senator John R. Thayer, chairman, had a meeting Tuesday in the Mayor's office with the City Committee for the purpose of conferring with the National and State authorities. Arrangements were made for the State boat, the Monmouth, in the line of the naval parade, and for the State grand stand.

The committee also held a meeting in the Council Chamber and decided upon the style and character of badges and invitations for the invited guests of the State, and perfected other arrangements for the entertainment of the guests on the Monmouth and the grand stand.

The publication of the New York State official programme was awarded to George T. Parker & Co., who submitted some very artistic and appropriate designs. This programme will contain many special features and original sketches from the battle of Manila never before published. Portraits of national, State and city authorities will be included, also a history of the part taken by the National Guard and Naval Reserves of the State in the war.

The special design for the cover adopted by the committee will be an illustrated life of Admiral Dewey from Manila to Manila Bay. This programme will contain a limited amount of advertisements and 100,000 copies have already been ordered for by a prominent news agency in New York.

mir-Perier and in which it was claimed he spoke of engagements entered into by M. Casimir-Perier respecting him, the witness replied emphatically that he had never entered into any such engagement.

Colonel Jonaus asked Dreyfus if he had anything to say. The prisoner said:

"My words have certainly been distorted, for I have no recollection of such a letter. The words the former President of the Republic has just uttered are exact. I have never, even in my own mind, supposed there was any engagement undertaken by him and that he had not held thereto. I can well understand the indignation of M. Casimir-Perier, but such an idea never crossed my mind."

"Will you allow me to explain?" M. Demange asked next at the time of the trial, in conveying through M. Waldeck-Rousseau my request for a public trial, that this publicity should only be on condition that the question of the origin of the documents remained secret."

"I gave my word of honor not to raise this question, and in that how before the superior interests of my country. In my mind it was with the defence, and not with the President of the Republic, that the word of honor was given. I never had an idea that an engagement was made between the President and myself. Never! Never! Never!"

Jonaus—Then you declare false these letters in which it is said the President of the Republic entered into certain engagements with you?

"In any case the sense has been completely distorted," replied Dreyfus.

General Mercier entered the court room amid intense excitement. He was in full uniform, and carried his cap in his right hand and his mysterious dossier in his left. He moved his glove as he stepped to the witness stand and was sworn. He began to speak in a voice hardly audible to the nearest reporters. Throughout his testimony he used the same tone, except when he spoke of Germany's plotting and the danger of war, seeking to arouse the old boy.

General Mercier first described the organization of espionage in 1894, and then produced the anxious expected dossier, a veritable example of the mountain's labor to bring forth a mouse.

## The Mountain's Mouse.

M. Coups, the Registrar, read the document. I was a letter from Colonel Schwartzkoppen, formerly the German Military Attaché at Paris. Following is its text:

L'homme des fortifications de l'ennemi m'a laissé un pli. Vous pouvez le donner 300 francs si les autres documents arrivent. Donnez sans aucun autre sans documents. (The mouse fortifications man has left me a plan. You can give him 300 francs if the other documents arrive. Give no money without documents.)

The document was handed back to General Mercier, but Maitre Demange demanded that it be retained by the Court, and it was therefore returned to the Registrar.

General Mercier then proceeded to unfold the whole case, producing numerous documents which M. Greffier-Coups, the Registrar, read. The reading could be heard, but Mercier's explanations were so inaudible as to reduce the newspaper correspondents in the room to desperation.

When his words were audible they did not seem to have any real bearing on the case.

Dreyfus sat in an easy attitude, and his appearance denoted no concern or interest. No one would imagine from the prisoner's manner that the witness was doing his utmost to bring about his ruin.

Then the Registrar read the letter signed "Alexandre," containing the confession of "canaille de D." Next came Panizzardi's letter about "D." having given him interesting information. General Mercier laid out the great stress on the repetition of the "D." as being suspicious.

The next letter was the one saying that the words of Panizzardi and those of Schwartzkoppen were daily becoming closer, they having possession of a staff officer who overheard him then admirably. The letter concluded by saying: "I am sure of the Court, but do not know the officer's name. If I knew I would not say."

General Mercier recounted the history of the boredereau and his resolution to arrest Dreyfus. A letter was read from M. Duport, saying that M. Casimir-Perier was not present at the Cabinet Council when it was decided to arrest Dreyfus. The decision was made without him.

General Mercier proceeded to speak of the gravity of the situation in 1894. M. Casimir-Perier leaning forward with his hand to his ear, and General Mercier speaking loud.

er, apparently wishing to justify his action by the country's danger. The judges were also eagerly attentive, sitting upright and taking notes, though the relevance of the matter to the case was not apparent.

General Mercier said that Count Munster, the German Ambassador, had talked about demanding his passports, and that from 8 o'clock till midnight the Ambassador and M. Dupuy had discussed the matter in President Casimir-Perier's office. There was a constant exchange of telegrams, the witness said, between Count Munster and the German Government. General Mercier and M. Dupuy asked themselves whether war would not of necessity arise out of the incident.

Mobilization and a Crisis. "As regards mobilization," General Mercier said, "we were in a complete state of transformation, and diplomatic affairs were also critical."

A sensation was caused by the reading of a letter from Count Munster to Colonel Schwartzkoppen, saying: "There is a trust in the Dreyfus affair. I am said to have done very well." The letter is dated the day after M. Casimir-Perier's resignation.

Then, just before the suspension of the sitting at 9:15, General Mercier made an assertion which gave food for discussion and laughter during the interval. He said: "M. de Freyheit told Jamont, who told me, that England and Germany had signed a secret agreement for a campaign in favor of Dreyfus."

General Mercier said that upon learning of Count Munster's intervention he made preparations for immediate mobilization of the troops. He declared that he advised the President of the first court-martial to communicate the secret documents to the defence. He did not know whether or not this advice had been followed.

He admitted that when he communicated the documents to the President Judge in 1894, he bound him not to divulge the contents, as well as to invite France in war, which he declared was imminent. He asserted that the "canaille" letters referred to Dreyfus.

Mercier Becomes Cruel. At the end of his evidence General Mercier said he believed the only motive for Dreyfus's treason was that Dreyfus had no feeling of patriotism.

This cruel utterance brought forth hisses from the audience, whose blood had been sent up to fever heat by the witness's savage attacks on Dreyfus.

General Mercier, not heeding the hisses, turned to the Court with the remark: "If the least doubt crossed my mind, messieurs, I should be the first to declare it. I am mistaken, but in good faith."

Then Dreyfus electrified his hearers. He jumped to his feet, as though he had been struck by lightning, and shouted with a voice that resounded through the hall like a trumpet note.

"That is what you ought to say," the audience burst into a wild cheer, whereupon the ushers called for silence.